NOV 6 1918

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Vol. X., No. 497.] FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1918. [Price 2d.
Registered as a Newspaper.

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All MSS. and letters relating thereto should be addressed to the Editor, The Common Cause, *Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 2702.]*

Notes and News.

Opening of Parliament.

Parliament reassembled on Tuesday, October 15th. Mr. Bonar Law in answer to a question in the House, stated that the Government would give an opportunity for a discussion for a vote on the admission of women to Parliament. Sir Willoughby Dickinson and Mr. Herbert Samuelson have already put down a resolution on the subject, and the Labour Party have a Bill drafted for the Government to adopt. The Scottish Education Bill will also be one of the first matters to be considered. Like the English Bill, it provides for the extension of the school age, and for the further extension of educative influence throughout adolescence. The Bill is said to be regarded by some as a fresh charter both for the child and the teacher. Nothing can be regarded as a "charter" for women teachers unless it provides for equal pay.

A Ministry of Health.

It seems likely too that a Ministry of Health Bill of some kind may be introduced very shortly. Whether it will be worthy, or whether it will prove to be merely a compromise, remains to be seen. It is certain that no Bill can be satisfactory which does not admit women to an important place in the new Ministry. This will be the first permanent Ministry to be formed since the enfranchisement of women, and it will be interesting to see how far the Government is prepared to permit the new powers irrevocably bestowed on women to be reflected in Departmental affairs. Women as such are so intimately connected with all matters relating to health, that to attempt to deal with the question without creating machinery which will give their representatives as a whole—not merely individual women—a large share in the discussion and settlement of the problems connected therewith is to create a Ministry foredoomed to failure. We shall return to this subject again.

Equal Pay.

The N.U.W.S.S. gave evidence before the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry on October 14th. A report of the evidence will be published in next week's issue.

Women and Temporary Work.

All our hearts are lightened by the hope of a speedy peace, but there are some to whom hope comes accompanied by personal anxiety. Among these are the many women whose work is more or less closely bound up with the emergencies of war. We learn from *Women's Service* that in the last few days a large number of women, filled with fear lest peace should throw them out of their present jobs, have applied at the bureau for permanent work. The Women's Service Bureau, while doing its best to help these applicants, wishes to point out: first that a hasty action on the part of temporary workers will bring about the very result they want to avoid; second, that the staff of Government departments will not all be disbanded at the same moment, and many, such as the Ministry of Pensions and the Ministry of Reconstruction, are bound to continue for a long time to come. Third, that women with special training and qualifications should have very little difficulty in obtaining work after the war, and that at the moment it is almost impossible to say what work is permanent and what is not. We would advise all women in Gvernment Offices who are anxious as to the future to consult their supervisors or establishment officers, to find out what is already being done to anticipate the difficulty. The excellent introductory pamphlet recently issued by the Ministry of Reconstruction shows that the Government is aware of the difficulties which will attend the demobilization of civil workers.

40 D D.O.R.A.

Not only our readers, but we hope all serious men and women, will support the public meeting which the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, in conjunction with all the principal social and religious organisations, including the N.U.W.S.S., will hold on Wednesday, November 6th. Mrs. Fawcett will take the chair, and the list of speakers (which are published on another page) is impressive. There is more than one opinion concerning what legislation, if any, is right, just and practicable for the lessening of the social evil, but that 40d D.O.R.A. is none of these surely we are all agreed; it is therfore of the greatest importance that this order should no longer remain a blot upon our national shield.

The Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association.

The officers of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association (of whom Mrs. Haslam, well-known to all suffragists, is one) have issued a circular pointing out the present position of the Association and its need for reconstruction, in view of the very urgent nature of the work now devolving upon the enfranchised women of Ireland. Our readers are aware that this Association is the pioneer Suffrage Society of Ireland, and has always included Local Government work in its activities, having collected much information of the greatest value. There is great need for a centre where this information, for which there is a constant demand, would be available, and this centre would serve as a nucleus for the immense amount of work, both educative and practical, now falling into women's hands. The Society has also been instrumental in promoting the election of women on public boards throughout the country, and its activities in this direction could be extended. The project will need, and the Association asks its members for, financial support.

A National Conference of Women.

On October 15th and 16th the Labour Party held an important conference of women on women's civil and political rights and responsibilities. We publish a report of the first day on p. 316; we hope to print a further report in next week's issue.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF INEQUALITY.

In the long, dark months of last winter and the terrible days of the spring most people must have had moments in which they felt the only problem worth considering for men and women, soldiers and civilians was how to keep a good courage and hold out. At such moments peace was a word without meaning, and the reconstruction that depends on peace seemed a shadowy thing; we could think about it only by an effort of will and because we realised that to do so was a necessary part of our endurance. Now all that is changed, and there is a new reality in reconstruction problems. One of the most important of these is, undoubtedly, the future relations between men and women in industry. We are glad that the Government appears to recognise this; and also that it has summoned the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and Women's Service to give evidence before the commission which it has appointed to enquire into the subject.

These organisations naturally view the matter in the light of their own object; *i.e.*, the attainment of a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women. It is obvious that in the professions and industry that equality is still some way off; women do not receive equal pay for equal work, and for work which is almost the same there is often a very wide difference in the remuneration. Among the causes for the lower pay received by women in nearly all the occupations in which both sexes work are legal disabilities affecting the employment of women; customary disabilities; educational disabilities; social disabilities; "marriage mortality," and the fact that the majority of men either support or expect to support families at some period of their lives.

The legal disabilities are of three kinds. In the first place women are excluded by law from several professions, *e.g.*, the more important posts in the Civil Service, and the practice of the law itself. There are other professions to which single women are admitted, but from which they are compelled to retire on their marriage: examples of such posts may be found in the Civil Service and in many educational appointments under local authorities. Lastly, there is the protective legislation, which in cases where it relates only to women may make them less convenient than men as employees. Such are the limitations of the night labour of women under the factory laws, and other restrictions of the same kind.

The disabilities which are those of custom rather than of law have an even more far-reaching effect. By custom, sometimes enforced by Trade Union action, and maintained by the prejudices of employers and employed, women are excluded from what is called "Men's Work"; and be it noted that in this connection men's work does not necessarily imply heavy muscular labour, but is stretched to include a great deal of highly-paid skilled work which is yet quite light. The unequal position of women in industry is partly the cause and partly the effect of the very inadequate share that they have hitherto taken in Trade Union life. From many men's Trade Unions women are still excluded; into others they are admitted only as "paper members" who have no real share in determining the action of the Union. Their own Trade Union organisation is still only in its youth, though it may be said to have passed its infancy. Numbers of women workers are still isolated units, struggling alone, easy victims of our industrial system and potential dangers to the freedom of their sex and class.

Closely connected with the customary disabilities of women are the educational disabilities which exclude them from various forms of technical training provided by trades and by local education authorities. It is impossible to reflect without indignation that women are not admitted to apprenticeship in such suitable trades as, for example, upholstering or the engraving of music. The doors of the universities are only gradually being pushed open for women; there are still far fewer scholarships for girls than for boys. Moreover, in choosing a trade or profession, many girls are hampered not only by the prejudices of employers and trade unions and education authorities, but by the still more fatal prejudices of their own parents. These are often the worst of all obstacles to the careers of daughters; they affect the development of the child from the time it is in its cradle, and create a semblance of reason for the terrible sentence they afterwards pass on the ambitions of adolescence: "You can never be what you want to be, you must not forget that you are *only a girl.*"

Being "only a girl" is the beginning of being "only a woman," and the suggestion of essential inferiority, first heard in the nursery or schoolroom, is re-echoed by society as this secondary human creature goes through life. As it is constantly dinned into her, it is very difficult for her not to believe it, and if she is really worth less than a man it seems to follow that her work is worth less too, and that she is very lucky to be paid at all. For the greater part of her work she is in fact *not* paid at all. The domestic labour and personal attendance on others which is required from her in her father's house naturally becomes her chief occupation after she marries and has children, and this work is not recognised as having any money value. It is true that in return for it she is often provided with the necessaries of life, and sometimes with the amenities, on such a scale as her husband's income and the number of their children make possible; but if she wants to earn money herself she has to do double work, and her efficiency is apt to suffer. There is also the danger that, if she is "kept" by her husband or father, the money she earns will be regarded by herself and by other people as pocket money, and so need not be a living wage. Another cause that tends to lower the wages of women is the hideous fact that though a woman does not earn money by her labour in her own home she can earn it by prostitution; the wages of sin are used to bolster up horrible sweated trades, so that the bodies of the poor women who work in them may be said to be twice sold.

All these social and customary disabilities are the result of wrong thinking by men about women and by women about themselves. They are gradually being cleared away by the educational efforts of the Suffrage Societies and by experience. Till they are gone it is almost impossible to decide what are the real differences between women's work and men's work, and whether there are any which are natural and essential and therefore permanent. No one will wish to deny that there are physiological differences between men and women, and that these do at present affect some of their work, but we do not know how far they will always do so, nor in what manner. It is a subject on which there is much room for research.

Nor is it very easy to say how the fact that marriage is a profession for women and a rival to all other professions affects their success in these. It is certainly given as a reason for paying them less, however, and so is the (often erroneous) opinion that "women have no dependents." It cannot be denied that when a woman marries she very often leaves her job, though not always by her own free will; a man, on the other hand, is generally made more constant in his work by the hope of being able to support a wife and children. It is a tradition that the minimum wage in every trade ought to be large enough to make this possible for him. His position in regard to the family is recognised and understood, whereas that of the woman is not. At the present time the services of women, both as mothers and as industrial and professional workers, are terribly needed; unless they are fully used it will hardly be possible for our country to recover the vitality she has lost in these terrible years of war. But in order that women should give of their best it is necessary that they should have freedom and fair conditions in the home and outside it. It is for this reason that we regard the propaganda of the N.U.W.S.S. and of its daughter Women's Service as an essential part of our national preparation for peace.

The Endowment of Motherhood.

A Plea for Reconsideration.

A writer who suffers under the disability of not having seen the concrete terms of a scheme which he is asked to criticise is necessarily confined more or less to general principles. In this particular instance, however, this is not such a drawback as might at first appear to be the case, since I hold strongly to the view that it is just the general principles underlying the proposed endowment of motherhood which most require attention. In what follows I shall deal mainly with the presumptions underlying *any* such scheme, although I shall also point out that *both* the "sliding-scale" or "graded" rate and the "flat" rate present special difficulties of their own.

Two preliminary remarks may be permitted.

(1) The analogy between the proposed endowment of motherhood and the present Army separation allowances is false. The former is intended as an experiment in the redistribution of wealth, based on the principle that the economic disabilities of motherhood require adjustment, *whatever the status of the mother;* the second is based on the principle of compensation for the loss of the principal breadwinner. It is true that both schemes give to the larger family the larger allowance, and that in both cases the varying amount is based on the varying need, but there the similarity ceases. The *principle* of the Army separation allowance is to bridge the gulf in earnings caused by the temporary absence of the breadwinner; the principle of the proposed endowment of motherhood is to make the mother and the child or children independent of earnings altogether. Moreover, I am inclined to think that Miss O'Malley in her article in The Common Cause, of October 4th, rather exaggerates the value of what the separation allowance has actually done during the war. The implication of her remarks is that the improved condition of school children is due to the allowances made to their mothers. Is it not rather due to the enormous rise in wages which the war has produced? And is it not a fact that families dependent *entirely* on the separation allowance are *not* quite so well off as she seems to suppose?

Now this last point is one of considerable importance in connection with the liability af a father to support his offspring. If there is going to be a State-allowance I do not see what is to prevent an equivalent reduction being made in the amount which a man hands over weekly to his wife. To this point I shall refer later—I mention it now in passing.

(2) There seems to be very considerable confusion in the minds of the supporters of the scheme as to the economics of the wages system. In Miss O'Malley's article there seem to be at least four conflicting wage theories, all used in different connections, but all seemingly supporting the view that the endowment of motherhood is a desirable policy.

These theories are (*a*) wages are based on value of output (used in connection with the present separation allowances); (*b*) wages are based on subsistence (extract from report, a view which, *if true*, knocks the bottom out of the case altogether); (*c*) wages, in the case of women, are alternatively based on non-payment of her work in the home and on lower social status of women as compared with men. Now I will seriously urge supporters of the scheme to make up their minds on which theory of wages they intend to base their proposals. For my part, I believe wages to be based on output, in the sense that the value to the employer of the work of any class of labour determines the value of that labour.* It follows from my view that men and women do not get higher wages because they are married, but marry because they get wages which in their opinion enable them to support a family. The alternative view, that wages follow the cost of subsistence, is in normal times in flagrant contradiction with the facts of economic life. This brings me to the real centre of the discussion. *Ought* wages to bear the burden or ought the burden of children to be met by some other system? Again to crystalise the argument, I shall develop it in a series of propositions.

(1) So long as married people have to bear the expense of rearing their own children, in the main, under modern conditions, only those children will be born for whose maintenance adequate provision (as conceived by the class into which they are born) exists. It follows that in bad times, e.g., times of rising prices, economic distress, and so on, fewer children tend to be born than in times of good economic conditions. The result is that, in bad times, only those people tend to have children who are prepared to make the necessary sacrifices to rear them. The contention is that this may have a "disastrous result on our national life." Why? The result would only be disastrous if it can be shown that *at all times* it is desirable to increase the population. But this is an assumption which requires proof, and for my part I think it an assumption which cannot be proved to be universally true.

(2) The subsidiary line of argument is to show that as things are the most reckless part of the population is most prolific. This is, I think, unfortunately true, but anything more fatal to the scheme cannot be imagined. As Miss O'Malley says, the system of "family endowment would be so good . . . that it would be a great encouragement to people to have them," i.e., a bounty on babies will increase their number, and since the most reckless now will be the most reckless then, relatively they will still be the most productive! How endowment is to save us from prolificness among the reckless I cannot see; the proportional distribution of babies among the whole population may remain exactly what it was before; the only effect will be that one check to the increase of population will be removed.

(3) The general effect of a bounty is to stimulate the production of the bounty-fed article. A bounty on the birth of children will make those children an object of economic consideration to their parents, and it will be just the least sensitive people who will feel the economic incentive most. The kind of social atmosphere that is generated by giving people a pecuniary interest in the number of children they have can be studied in the Reports of Poor Law and Factory Commissions in the early 19th century; not to speak of later phenomena well-known to social investigators. They do not furnish one with attractive pictures of what happens when "great encouragement" is deliberately offered to the increase of population.

(4) In order to get over some of these difficulties, it may be proposed that only "approved parents" should be given the endowment—I say "parents" rather than "mothers" because physical disabilities in the father may be held to be a proper cause for withholding the bounty. For my own part, such forcible interference with the sanctities of marriage is repugnant, and I doubt whether the self-respect of people would allow it. But inspection might become necessary under the scheme, especially in connection with Preliminary Proposition. It has at any rate the advantage of considerably reducing the attractiveness of the whole proposition to the ordinary self-respecting person.

(5) Since, for a large part of the population, such endowments would of course largely increase the available net family income, it would of course stimulate immigration. The result would be either stringent aliens legislation or the exclusion of foreigners from the benefits of the bounty. Even supposing all foreigners to be kept out, emigration would cease unless the net income promised abroad would be at least equal to the ordinary average wage plus the bounty here. Whether that is a good thing depends on the views one holds as to the effects of emigration in re-distributing the population over the world in those places which offer the greatest natural advantages. For my part, I regard the check to the flow of population to the new areas of the world as a serious disadvantage.

(6) My last general point is that the scheme is grossly unfair to single women workers. The number of women will be seriously greater than the number of men after the war. It follows that whilst every man by marriage may ensure that for him the advantages of the scheme will be at least a partial compensation for the additional taxation involved, the single woman worker is to be taxed for life for the benefit of other people's happiness—a happiness which, *ex hypothesi*, she can only share at the expense of morality!

So far as the "sliding scale" or the "flat rate" come into question, I should like to emphasise the following:—

(a) A sliding scale would necessarily give the family with the larger income the larger bounty. This proportion can be defended by economic argument on the ground that the "better off" necessarily spend more per child than the less "well off." But it superficially contradicts every democratic principle, and in the present state of working-class opinion has not the remotest chance of acceptance.†

(b) Since under a flat rate the smaller incomes would get more proportionately than the larger, the efficacy of the bounty would be greater and greater the smaller the original family income. The result is easy to foresee; the greatest increase of population will take place in those families where the income, exclusive of the bounty, is least able to maintain a family. A

* Roughly, my view is that known to economists as the "Efficiency Theory of Wages."

† Indeed, proceeding on logical lines, it appears that the only scheme worth considering is one which would give *nothing* to those whose fecundity one wishes to check, and to grade the endowment to mothers in exact proportion to their expenditure per child, which in practice would mean bounties in inverse proportion to the smallness of the income or directly as the size of the income, until one gets to those incomes where any bounty of practicable amount ceases to have any effect at all.

more fatal proposal could not well be made. Either the bounty gets larger and larger, in order that the children in the "marginal classes" may be properly nourished, &c., in which case the net cost of the scheme will rise, because *all* classes, *ex hypothesi*, will equally benefit; or the flate rate remains unchanged, in which case it is attractive only to the poor, and only stimulates population among the very people who, it is argued, have proportionately too many children already.

I am aware that this article is entirely negative in character. If, however, the Editor will allow me space in a future number of The Common Cause I shall be happy to point out what *can* be done without engendering a series of extremely undesirable results.

T. E. Gregory.

Will Family Endowment Weaken Family Feeling?

What does the family depend on?

Many people still think that it depends on some kind of bondage, and while some are so convinced of its value as to be willing to submit to bondage for its sake, others are so convinced of the evils of bondage that they want to sweep the family away altogether in order to escape.

Among those who support the family and consciously or unconsciously believe that it depends on bondage, are those anti-suffragists who think that for its sake morality must be enforced on women by special penalties, and domestic labour by exclusion from other occupations, and those suffragists and anti-suffragists who think that for its sake a sense of paternal responsibility must be enforced on a class by the penalty of starvation.

The most serious opponents of family endowment object to it not so much because of its economic difficulties as because they believe that if a man is able to cease from wage-earning without fear that his children will starve, and a woman is able to have children without legal marriage to a wage-earning husband, parental responsibility and family life will be undermined.

But does the family really depend on these things? Very few suffragists think that it rests on the subjection of women. Those who do must necessarily regard it as an evil to be swept away. But the majority, especially among suffragist women *know* from their own experience that such freedom as they have won does not loosen their sense of obligation to the family nor weaken their affection for it. Those women who do throw off family ties do so not so much because the present social arrangements make it possible for them to follow their own convictions, as because they are suffering from a strong reaction against the kind of slavery which was wrongfully imposed on them, or which they have seen wrongfully imposed on their mothers and aunts and elder sisters, in the name of the family. When women are quite as free as men, when no one thinks that they must devote themselves to their parents because they are daughters and not sons, and to their children because they are mothers and not fathers, then the vast majority will discern their duty and obey its commands, as those who are free in mind, and have not fallen from the slavery of custom into the slavery of reaction, do now. There will be some selfish ones who will yield to their selfishness of course, but have selfish people ever been any use to the family or to any one? Constraint, whether of law or custom, cannot make people more than superficially moral or superficially dutiful, it cannot really make them good. The followers of freedom believe that the removal of constraint will allow free play to the goodness which is in human nature, and that if the family is a real good, it will flourish far better when the persons who compose it are free.

But the same argument that convinces some of us that the family does not depend on the subjection of women, also convinces us that it does not depend on the support of children by their father's wages. At the present time men of the working and professional classes are forced to earn money because if they do not their children will starve, or at any rate, lack what they, the fathers, regard as the essentials of life. The selfish, it is true, disregard this obligation: some children starve, or would starve if the community were quite logical in carrying out the theory that a man must support his children out of his wages, and many children lack what their fathers have considered as essential for themselves. But most, or at any rate, a very large number of men feel this constraint, they must provide for their children, because if they do not no one else will do so, and not only will the children suffer but they themselves will be disgraced. It is, or has been, the first obligation for the majority of men, and for the sake of it honour, art, learning and the service of humanity have in many cases been sacrificed without blame and without complaint. But is the constraint really necessary? Do men *only* work for their families because their children would starve if they did not, and would they feel no responsibility to them if the necessity of supporting them were taken away? It is too early yet to say whether the fact that soldiers' families are now supported by the State has weakened the sense of family responsibility among the men who are now fighting. The payment of separation allowances is a first step towards family endowment, but these allowances are paid in different conditions from those which would govern the national endowment of all families. Soldiers have no choice but to do the special work for which they are called, and it is conceivable that civilian fathers whose families were kept for them might refuse to do any work at all. The separation allowances are determined by the size of a man's family and not by his aptness at his particular job, but they are also determined by his rank in the army—*i.e.*, by the nature of the job he is capable of doing, and they are in some sort a return for his work. So that although the family feeling of soldiers seems, as far as we can yet judge of it, to be particularly strong; it is perhaps not fair to take this as evidence that family endowment would not undermine family feeling.

Evidence of this *does* however exist, and it is strange that the opponents of family endowment should be unaffected by it. Whole classes of the population are *not* constrained to work by the fear of starvation for their children because they inherit fixed incomes which, even if they are very small ones, do at any rate stand between their children and the positive lack of bread. The example of the upper and upper middle-class classes in this country is surely a proof that family feeling can thrive and be strong where there is not the least fear of want. Most people seek more than bread for their children, and if the bare necessities of life are provided by family endowment they will still work in order to provide better opportunities for them. Indeed it is probable that when the horrible compulsion of fear is removed they will work far better, because with more energy and more hope. For parental responsibility and family feeling in the wider sense, depend on things quite other than fear. They depend in the first place on a deep-rooted human instinct. Among most animals there is some feeling of responsibility for the young while they are still helpless. In human beings this instinct is much stronger, and the more we are civilised the stronger it becomes. In quite ordinary civilised human beings it extends to all who are dependent on them, and in the finest human beings it extends to all the helpless. Every natural human being feels it for his own children, who, whatever the State may do will always depend in a special manner on him, and who would not have existed but for his action.

Family feeling depends, in the second place, on the sympathy which people naturally feel with those who are like themselves. This does not always act, of course; but most people know by experience how much more easily one can understand a child or a grown-up person who is related to one than one who is not.

It depends, in the third place, on gratitude. Most of us cherish dear memories of parents or grandparents or uncles and aunts or elder sisters and brothers who have shown us kindness and affection beyond what we could possibly consider our due; and who have sacrificed themselves for us, in ways that we know of and in other ways that we only divine. If we are human we want to return that loving-kindness, both to those who have shown it, and to others whom they have loved. We feel also that what relations of an elder generation have done for us, we, in our turn, should do for those of a younger generation. It is a debt from which no normal person wants to escape.

Then, too, there is the great store of common interests, common memories, common knowledge, which belongs to a family group. These common possessions give a special character to friendships between members of one family, and make it easier to maintain relations even between those who have not any special affinity.

These are some of the root human feelings that make up "family feeling," and are the foundations of the institution of the family. While they exist, no change in social arrangements can possibly overthrow it. Indeed every change that gives greater freedom of development to the individual is likely to strengthen it. There seems no reason therefore to fear that the endowment of motherhood or of families will harm it. To this, as to all other changes which make for freedom, those who believe in human nature can go forward without fear.

I. B. O'Malley.

How to Become a Solicitor.

This session should prove a critical one in the movement towards obtaining the admission of women to the legal profession.

As readers of The Common Cause will no doubt remember, Lord Buckmaster's Bill to enable women to qualify and be admitted as solicitors was passed by the House of Lords in February, 1917, and again in March, 1918. Strong pressure was brought to bear on the Government, and more particularly on Mr. Bonar Law, to grant facilities for the discussion of the Bill in the House of Commons, and a more or less definite promise was obtained that, if substantial support for the measure was shown, the question of granting facilities would be favourably considered. Then, however, came the sad events of the spring and early summer, and in that time of general anxiety other considerations were almost inevitably pressed into the background. Now, however, that those dark days are a thing of the past, it is hoped that the Government will be prepared to fulfil its promise and to give the very short time that will be required to the discussion of the Bill, or rather Bills, for two are before the House:—one to admit women as solicitors in England and another to admit them as Law Agents in Scotland. More than half the members of the House are pledged to support the Bills, and suffragists may reasonably hope that this long deferred piece of justice will at last be done.

In these circumstances, it may perhaps be of interest to women to have some idea of the steps which lead up to admission to the profession.*

In order to qualify as a solicitor it is necessary in the first place to have served under a binding contract for a prescribed period with a practising solicitor: secondly, to have passed the proper examinations; thirdly, to have been admitted and enrolled; and, lastly, to have taken out a proper certificate to practice.

The first step then, which the would-be solicitor must take, is to enter into Articles of Clerkship, and before he can do this he must give evidence of a satisfactory amount of education, either by passing a Preliminary Examination in general subjects, or one of the many school examinations such as matriculation, School Certificate, Higher Local, &c. There is no limit to the age at which this Preliminary Examination may be passed, and immediately after passing it the student may enter into Articles.

The normal period of service under Articles is five years except, roughly speaking, persons who have a degree, for whom the qualifying period is three years. Articles of Clerkship bind the student to serve as clerk for the prescribed period, during which he obtains a practical training in the work of his proposed profession. The contract requires a Government stamp of £80, and in order that the service under Articles should count towards admission it is necessary that they should be registered at the offices of the Law Society within six months of being entered into. At present the Law Society refuses to register the Articles of a woman and it is not, therefore, possible at the present time for any woman to meet this essential requirement of the qualifying period of service: that is to say, that no matter what experience any woman may have had in a solicitor's office, no matter in what capacity, should this Bill now before Parliament be passed it will be necessary for her in every case to serve the preliminary period of apprenticeship. The normal fee for articles is £300, but this may be varied by the mutual consent of the parties. Similarly, the Articles of Clerkship may be cancelled at any time by mutual consent.

The intermediate examination may be taken at any time after completing twelve months' service. It is a double examination consisting of a legal and of a book-keeping part. From the legal part only, such persons are exempt as have taken an English Law degree or who have taken honours in the Final Honours of Jurisprudence at Oxford or the Law Tripos at Cambridge. The examination is one on general legal principles based on Stevens' "Commentaries on the Laws of England."

The final examination cannot be passed until articles have expired or almost expired. Although in normal times both the Intermediate and the Preliminary Examinations are held four times a year, since the war, by an Act passed last session, the Law Society was given statutory authority to reduce the number of examinations to three a year.

(It will be remembered that when this Bill was introduced on behalf of the Law Society it was claimed to be necessary in view of the very considerably reduced number of students preparing for the profession. As Mr. Dickinson, now Sir Willoughby, very pertinently pointed out, this deficiency of students was a serious one, and the fact that it was such as to cause the Law Society to reduce the number of examinations was, too, an additional reason for admitting women.)

The subjects for the final examination are (1) Real and personal property and conveyancing (2) Chancery law and procedure; (3) Common law and procedure in the King's Bench Division, the law and practice of bankruptcy; (4) Probate, divorce and Admiralty law and practice, Ecclesiastical law and criminal practice and proceedings before Justices of the Peace. There are separate Honours and Pass Examinations, the Honour student being required to take the Pass Examination as well as the Honours.

Lectures and classes are arranged by the Law Society. Several women employed in solicitors' offices applied for permission to attend these classes in the spring of this year, but were refused by the Council of the Law Society. That is to say, that not only does the Law Society maintain that under the law as it stands they are not authorised to admit women to their examinations or to register their articles, but they also maintain that, even when women are actually doing legal work in solicitors' offices, they are not prepared to allow them the benefit of technical instruction, such as would enable them to do that work more efficiently.

Any person who has passed the final examination, who is twenty-one and whose articles have expired may apply to the Master of the Rolls to be admitted. On admission the applicant's name is entered on the roll of solicitors by the Registrar. There then remains only the further step of taking out a certificate to practice, which certificate requires to be renewed annually.

From the above summary it appears that there are two courses open to the prospective solicitor. (1) To serve five years' under articles and to take both the intermediate and final examinations; (2) To take a legal degree, generally a matter of three years, and then to serve three years under articles, with the necessity of taking only the book-keeping portion of the intermediate examination and the final examination only.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge strongly on any women who may have it in mind to prepare themselves for this profession the advisability of following the second of these two courses. The difference in time is at the most one year, and although the University training is largely a theoretical one, and much of the work done may at first sight appear to have little bearing on the subsequent practical everyday work of a solicitor, yet the thorough training in legal theory and principles which is given by the university course is invaluable both as training and as providing a general scheme or outline—a framework as it were—into which to fit the subsequent details of the more practical side of the work. From the woman's point of view at the present moment, of course, there is this further consideration to add, that a woman can here and now take her legal degree whereas, as has been pointed out, she cannot serve under Articles in such a way as to enable that service to count towards admission. The legal degree does not form in any way the technical qualification for practice, as does a medical degree in the case of a doctor, but for women who are starting or proposing to start in a new career, it is as well to have the backing of such status as is conferred by the degree as well as that conferred by the actual solicitor's examination when they may be admitted to it, as it is hoped they may be shortly.

L. F. Nettlefold.
Law Tripos, Camb., LL.B., Lond.

* The regulations may be obtained from the Director of Legal Studies, Law Society's Hall, Chancery Lane, E.C.

The Story of a Genius.

Martin Schuler. By Romer Wilson. (Methuen. 7s. net.)

I have never, in my experience as a reviewer, had a more difficult task than the reviewing of *Martin Schüler*. The book baffles the effort to "place" it. It is apparently by a new writer, and a writer who belongs to no accepted school. It is abrupt, spasmodic, fragmentary; it has many of the effects, but not the total effect, of incoherence. It is original—and beautiful: the beauty is of no obvious or familiar kind, for it is at once checked and enhanced by a hardness, an irony. As one reads, one is conscious often of an atmosphere vague, remote and tender: one envisages a world of mountains, lakes, forests and old romance: one hears the sentimental sound of bells—and then, no less often, one is pulled up by the hard facts, the awkward contradictions, of a life which contains the body, with the ignominies and incongruities of the body, as well as the aspirations of the soul. It is this rhythm of contradiction, this insoluble and interminable conflict, this clash of fact with the dream which is no less a fact itself, that makes life such a fascinating and humiliating and exalting puzzle for the soul which thrills to it: it is as the delineation of such a soul that this book is remarkable.

The Germany of *Martin Schüler* is, in time, only just pre-war: but, in atmosphere, it goes back almost to the Germany of the fairy stories. To adjust the atmosphere to the time is an impossible feat for my ignorance to attempt. I cannot begin to judge whether *Martin Schüler* is true to the life it sets out to portray—but that it is in a more important sense true to life I am sure. A critic suffering from ignorance is always under a strong temptation to pretend omniscience. It was, I think, the critic in *The Old Maids' Club* who, never having looked at a picture, and never having been able to distinguish one tune from another, attained an enormous reputation as an expert in both music and painting by always writing of the one in the technical language appropriate to the other. Similarly Mr. Hilaire Belloc has somewhere a stimulating essay on the keeping up of intellectual appearances in the face of natural disadvantages. To confess ignorance is difficult, to feign knowledge easy—and one is seldom found out except by the people who really know. But my own ignorance of the subject-matter of *Martin Schüler* is too complete for disguise; I was never in Germany for more than a few hours, and the whole world of its social and musical life is a blank to me. What I do know is that somewhere, somehow, in essential truth, in the very mind and soul of man, the world of *Martin Schüler* exists: it has the concrete reality of imaginative creation: it obeys the artistic laws of fact: it is native to sympathy: it challenges recognition. If there are no Schülers in Germany it is only in the same sense as, for all I know by personal experience, there are no castles in Spain.

"Romer" is as asexual a name as "Currer," and Romer Wilson may no more be Mr. Wilson than Currer Bell was Mr. Bell; nor do I flatter myself that I can discern the sex of an author by the internal evidence of the author's style or point-of-view: there is no "woman's sphere" or "man's job" in art! So it is for the merest convenience that I refer to the author of the book before me as *Mr.* Wilson: even an author, after all, has to be called something. Mr. Wilson, then, is a bold man (or woman as the case may be); but his (or her) boldness is justified by success. He has set out to draw a genius—a musical genius; and actually as we read we are convinced that he *has* drawn a musical genius. One cannot discern or describe, though one can feel and appreciate, how the effect is produced. It is not done by reiteration or emphasis, but by simplicity of conviction and beauty of writing. Martin is not a symbol, a type, or a caricature—as geniuses in fiction so often tend to be. He is vital: he is himself. Through all the exasperating abruptnesses and maddening inconsequences of his behaviour one feels the irrefutable unity of a human soul. One feels not merely that geniuses *do* behave like that, but that Martin *did* behave like that. He did not, of course, behave well. It is rare for anybody to be both a genius and a gentleman. A gentleman has been defined as a man who never gives pain, and genius can be defined as an infinite capacity for giving pain: moreover, we have only to look at the life-stories of geniuses to observe that it is unusual for that capacity not to be exercised. Mr. Wilson is far too competent an artist to diverge into the old discussion as to whether a genius has more or less right than other people to behave badly—whether he has the right to learn in other people's sufferings what he teaches in his own song—whether there is any law of ultimate compensation by which a broken heart can be balanced against the "perfect round" of musical harmony. Martin discards his devoted mistress and beats his devoted secretary: he is dishonourable, cruel, selfish, petty, unreasonable, contemptible, absurd; but at no point does Mr. Wilson pass or imply any sort of moral stricture. That is not his business. His business is to make us believe, to make us *see*, that Martin did these things, had these characteristics—did other things, had other and nobler characteristics—and made great music and was greatly loved. To beat one's secretary because one's artistic conscience has had a shock about the quality of one's work is not the act of a sane man, and Martin is so far insane, as so many men and women of genius (as well as an infinitely larger number of men and women with no genius whatever) have been insane. Nothing in the whole book is subtler or stronger than the description of the actual sensations in Martin's head—those strange sensations of power and impotence, of music and silence, about which who shall say whether they belong to the body or the soul? Martin gives acute pleasure to himself, but also to others: he inflicts desperate suffering on others, but also on himself—or rather is driven by that nameless force inside him to the extremes of misery and illness. It may perhaps be a grim consolation to some moralists, and certainly all history proves it to be true, that, if geniuses are cruel to their fellow-creatures, they are generally even crueller to themselves.

Here is a description of Martin in the act of creation (the manuscript in question is that of a libretto for an opera planned long before, and it lets loose, or calls forth, the inevitable music):—

> "Martin put down the manuscript and lay back in his chair; the force of the inspiration removed his thoughts; and he felt a contraction in the front part of his head. He shut his eyes, hunched up his shoulders, and threw his body violently forward so that his elbows rested on the table. He covered his eyes with one hand and ran the fingers of his left hand up into his forelock, so that the palm supported his head, and with the thumb and little finger spanned his forehead and felt the contour of his brows. The shape of his head was exceedingly pleasant: at each temple it was flat, and from there curved upward and outward to form the square of his forehead. He thought that creation was in the forehead: he could feel the effort of imagination between his eyes; from there backwards to points above his ears he had the sensation of creation.
>
> "He did not think out what use he should make of the manuscript; he felt that he wished to conceive something magnificent, something that should be the outcome of all his experience, constructed upon intersecting arcs, converging lines, or upon curves of balance. He gave himself a climax, a point, and again shut out the light with both his hands. After a few minutes he felt a motion rise, burst, and break into a million falls. He had conceived his idea. It was not expressible in words. His throat was tight, his brain contracted, the muscles at the side of his jaws were distended in the effort of clenching his teeth. He opened his eyes and, without thinking or flickering his eyelids, took some lined paper and began straight away to note down the beginning of an opera in music. He put it all down. Very slowly he set the idea that came out of his mind straight down on paper with immaculate notation. He paused frequently, his eyes half shut as if he were focussing something, but he had not a single image or sound in his head. His hand obeyed some unknown force in his mind that had its seat in the middle of his brows, and drew pains from the sides and back of his head."

The writer who wrote that has more than the gifts of sympathetic observation and rhythmical description—he has the gift of poetry and its twin gift of realism. I could easily have chosen for quotation passages of more obvious beauty—pictures of scenery drenched in music and romance, or of "interiors" intimately eloquent of feeling's delicate and elusive responses. But I am drawn by the straightforward strength of what I have quoted no less than by its psychological subtlety and creative force. Like life, it is, when most serious, not far from being ridiculous. It is implacable in its facing of the small physical absurdities which attend and express the operations of the majestic mind. It is elaborate and yet ingenuous (note that "began to note down the beginning of an opera in music"; which is precisely the phrase that might be used by a child ignorant of the most elementary technicalities): it is so direct as to be inevitable. And, indeed, this quality of inevitability it is which marks off *Martin Schüler* from the common run of books. One feels, not merely that it is well written, but that it had to be written, and that it had to be written just so. One may like it or dislike it: one may be fascinated by it or irritated by it or even, conceivably, bored by it: but one cannot possibly fail to be struck by it. And for my own part I am inclined to think that, if one *were* bored by it, that would be because one was blind and deaf to a particular sort of beauty—a particularly novel, urgent and sensitive sort, but a sort that is also to some people rather difficult and at the first shock rather incoherent. About the beauty there can be no doubt.

Gerald Gould.

Reviews.

League of Nations: Scheme of Organisation prepared by a Sub-Committee of The League of Nations Society. (1, Central Buildings, Westminster, S.W. 1. Price 3d.)

The scheme issued by a Sub-Committee of the League of Nations Society has appeared at the right moment. Space forbids even an outline of the proposals made in this pamphlet. Those who have hitherto got their ideas from the daily press will find here help in marshalling them into a concrete whole, while for others who may have followed more closely the developments of thought in the last three years, there will be deep interest in collating the mass of material already published with that put out by this Sub-Committee as the ripe result of their studies.

Two points may be noticed: firstly, the recognition given to that quality which happily distinguishes the modern method of seeking permanent peace, from those which brought discredit upon certain peace-mongers in the last century. The "scheme" accepts the live, the dynamic, rather than the "graveyard" or static conception, and seeks therefore to provide means by which the peoples' representatives may consider, not how to preserve the *status quo*, with its vested interests, but how to encourage a healthy evolution, how to meet the demand for just changes before it becomes an occasion of war.

Our other point is one of respectful criticism. Have the authors said at once too much and too little about sanctions? They recognise "enforcement," but relegate the problems involved to the consideration of a Committee to be constituted within the League. Yet it is common knowledge that both among those opposed and those favourable to the League idea, there are clear thinkers who hold that the good ship must founder on this rock. We ask therefore, while recommending this sketch to the earnest attention of our readers, for an essay on "enforcement"; for if "enforcement" is of the essence of the League, the ordinary public should know more about it while still some academic calm pervades the atmosphere—before the storm bursts, which must burst when the clash of interests sweeps thought aside.

A. H. W.

Correspondence.

RURAL HOUSING.

Madam,—The article on Rural Housing in last week's Common Cause is a refreshing exception to those which have hitherto appeared on the subject, as it boldly tackles the financial difficulty, a side of the subject that is usually discreetly ignored. It does not, however, state the case quite adequately. It admits that the builder of cottages will require 5 per cent. for his money, and gloomily confesses that 5 per cent. on the capital required to build such a house as is described by previous writers in your columns will amount to a rent which is outside the means of a farm labourer, even with present day wages. But surely the builder of the future will want more than 5 per cent., because he could get 5 per cent. in several perfectly safe investments without any trouble or risk. Then there must be a margin to pay for necessary repairs, and periods when the house may be empty. Then there are the rates, a very considerable addition. So that the eight or nine shillings a week which he gives as the letting value of such a house must be raised to twelve shillings or more if it is to give a return equal to that of other judicious investments of capital.

Now is it the idea of social reformers that a sufficient subsidy out of public money should be paid to allow a twelve shilling house to be let for a six shilling rent?

Consider the difficulties such a policy would land us in. Supposing half a million houses are built after the war subsidised to this extent. The rural and semi-rural population is usually given as about a third of that of the whole country, say about thirteen million. If they have a third of the houses provided that will be roughly 160,000. If we suppose the thirteen millions to furnish about four million families, how are the fortunate tenants of these 160,000 houses to be selected? It is no small advantage over your neighbours to have an excellent house at half its proper rent. Who is to chose the beneficiaries?

If these houses are to be built by District Councils, then it will be a very valuable piece of patronage for District Councillors. Incidentally it may lead to a certain amount of corruption. It will be contrary to all experience if the really poor get this advantage. It will most probably fall to those who have what our American friends call a "pull" of some sort. As regards women, I am sorry to see so many people urging them to make use of their votes in order to get their hands into the public purse. I hope their sound sense and natural honesty will show them the danger of these proposals.

The spending of public money for the public, if it is well spent, is a good policy. To provide things which every citizen needs and every citizen can enjoy, public gardens, a good water supply, cheap travelling facilities, good paving, lighting, draining, a good public health service, including free care of the sick, all these are useful to all and may be provided by all. But to take a certain number of people and present them with half their rents seems to me an indefensible proceeding.

Maud Selborne.

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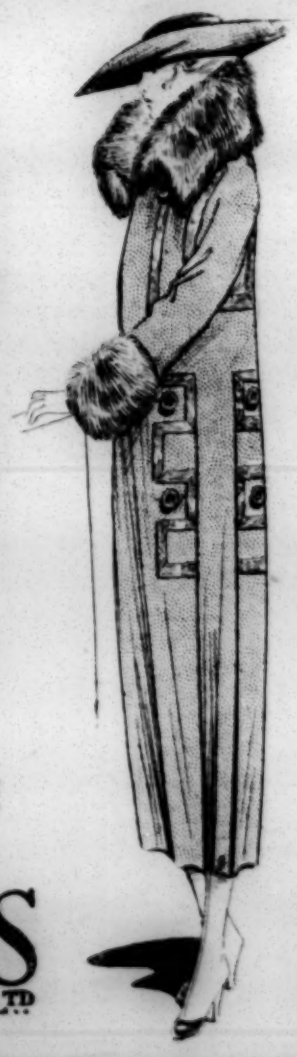

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Reports, Notices, etc.

THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE OF WOMEN AT CAXTON HALL.

On October 15th, at the National Conference of Women, the following resolutions were passed nem. con.:

(1) "That all legal restrictions on the entry of women to the professions on the same conditions as men should be abrogated";

(2) "That women should have all franchises and be eligible for election to all public bodies and shall be eligible to sit on juries and for the judicial offices and for all offices of State on the same conditions as men";

(3) "That systematic provision should be made for the representation of women on all committees and commissions national or local";

and with a view to carrying out these demands:

(1) "That the Government should immediately on the reassembling of Parliament introduce and pass through its stages Bills enabling women to be elected to and vote in the House of Commons, and to be jurors and be eligible for all offices of state";

(2) "That further legislation admitting women to professions from which they are now excluded should be passed";

(3) "That the Representation of the People Act, 1918, should be amended so as to give the Parliamentary and Local Government vote on a short residential qualification to all men and all women of 21 years of age."

Proposed by Miss Mcarthur, seconded by Mrs. Sidney Webb.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

By Our Special Correspondent.

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women which was held in Harrogate on October 8th, 9th, and 10th presented features of unusual interest. It was the first meeting of that body since the passing of the Representation of the People Act, and the new position of women in the State has created for the National Union of Women Workers and all women's societies a new situation. The business sessions of the Council were almost entirely devoted to the revision of the constitution, which both in its old and its new form requires study. The outstanding constitutional decision was the change of title, the whole original being henceforward known as the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, the name of the National Union of Women Workers being discarded. This change indicates the direction in which the Council is moving. It has always in the past performed a double function, being at once a society of individual women organised into branches and working together for various social reforms, and an organisation through which other women's societies could write and confer, both through the Branch Committees and through the sectional and Special Committee, and through the Annual Councils at Headquarters. How far the execution and individual functions of a society of women can be combined with the strict neutrality necessary for a successful co-ordinating agency, remains to be seen: the fact that women are now voters cannot but introduce a new element, and the end of the party truce will doubtless bring new developments in the situation. For the present, however, the dual function was continued by overwhelming majorities, and the new constitution, revised, strengthened, and somewhat simplified, was adopted.

The President, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, was re-elected for a term of eighteen months, as with the Treasurer, Lady Cowan, the Hon. Editor, Miss E. M. Eaton, and the Executive Committee. In addition, it was decided to appoint an acting Vice-President and an Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, their appointment for this year, to be in the hands of the Executive Committee, but afterwards by election at the Council Meetings. A Council was decided to be held in the spring or early summer of next year, but no election of officers will take place before the summer of 1920. The afternoon session of the Council were devoted to the consideration of a number of resolutions of great interest. By a vote that was in every way practically unanimous, the Council adopted the following resolutions:

40 D.

"That this Council of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland demands the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40 D. D.O.R.A."

Solicitation Laws and Equal Moral Standard.

"That as we are without the necessary information for forming a considered opinion upon many of the points arising out of the solicitation laws, the Government be asked to appoint a Commission to consider the whole question of public immorality and prostitution, the laws connected therewith, and their administration, together with the social and medical questions involved, and to report at an early date—the Commission to consist of an equal number of men and women."

The Council reaffirmed its resolution of last year, expressing its unshaken belief in an equal moral standard for men and women, and urging that "since the present laws relating to solicitation and riotous conduct in the streets are complicated, unjust, and ineffective in practice, a law on an equal basis for men and women with regard to administration, evidence, and penalties should be substituted to deal with molestation or annoyance by any persons in the streets."

Women on Government Committees.

"That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland welcomes the steps already taken to appoint women upon Government Committees, and urges that the proportion of women on these committees should be increased, and the circle from which they are selected should be enlarged; and, in particular, in view of the large number of women earning their living in engineering works who are doing invaluable service to their country, and recognising that women are employed in almost every operation in engineering, the National Council respectfully urges upon the Minister of Reconstruction the appointment of women with a practical knowledge of

engineering to sit on all Reconstruction Committees dealing with engineering industries."

In addition to the sessions of the Council at which resolutions were passed three very interesting public meetings were held dealing with women in agriculture and the engineering trades, the work of women patrols and the question of marriage, divorce, and the equal guardianship of children. The speeches on all these subjects reached a high degree of excellence, and showed very clearly the great effect upon the of women's societies, of the practical and administrative work they have had the opportunity to do in recent years. The speaking of women experts with first-hand as well as theoretic knowledge of the subjects they dealt with is necessarily a new feature in discussions on engineering or police work by women. It was one heartily welcomed by the delegates, whose one regret was the short time available for each branch of these fascinating, complex subjects.

SUNDERLAND WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

Sunderland has made its first move towards the formation of a Women Citizens' Association. On Thursday evening, October 3rd, the nucleus of a committee was formed at a well-attended meeting, where a great variety of opinion was represented; from Church and State in the chair, in its most modern and enlightened manifestation, to the New Democracy as expressed by the lady in the back row who rang the tocsin in the most approved manner, that is with no particular reference to the proceedings, but from a natural love of the noise the tocsin makes.

The formation of a W.C.A. had been a project very near to the heart of the Sunderland Suffrage Society from the early days when Miss Eleanor Rathbone first proposed the formation of such associations, as a proper piece of work for the National Union Societies to undertake. This meeting, however, was got up by the united effort of the Suffrage Society and the local branch of the Women Workers, and such being the case it seems obvious that there would be some difficulty in deciding under whose auspices the new association would start its work. This difficulty becomes acute when, as in the case of Sunderland, the central committee formed contains representatives of the Women's Co-operative Guild and other bodies whose constitution forbids them to affiliate with other societies. It therefore seems likely that at any rate for the present the Sunderland Women Citizens' Association will remain an independent body.

Sunderland was very fortunate in getting Miss Eleanor Rathbone from Liverpool to address this meeting. She gave us, what we most needed, practical working details. If, as I hope will be the case, Ward-committees are inaugurated in Sunderland, we shall have an excellent opportunity of testing her opinion that the dust-bin is capable of awakening a sense of citizenship in women to whom citizenship, in theory and in practice, is a closed book. I have seen—and smelt—some dreadful dust-bins in Sunderland.

It is my hope that the Sunderland Association will get to work quickly in two directions:—Firstly, in its general meetings, which will be attended by those women who have sufficient time and sufficient education to consider general questions that it will take up some crying evil such as the position of the Poor-law Widow, and work at it; and in this connection the Information Bureau of the National Union would prove of invaluable assistance.

Secondly, in its Ward-meetings, that it will attack courageously the spade-work of Women Citizens' Associations, the awakening of a sense of citizenship in the most unenlightened minds. This, to my mind, is the noblest and much the hardest task which the new Association has before it; but it is creative work.

E. C.

N.U.W.S.S. Societies.

BRADFORD FRANCHISE SUNDAY.

On October 6th Bradford celebrated the extension of the vote to women. Viscountess Rhondda, who was to have been one of the speakers, was prevented by illness from being present. Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, Minister of Education, said that the war had awakened a good deal of civic spirit among our people, but there was a danger that a good deal of that spirit would dissolve and disappear when once peace came. He felt that in England we had for many years past been content with too many half-measures; we had not been sufficiently drastic, sufficiently courageous in our operations for social reform.

Take, for instance, the question of the housing of the working classes. Could anyone look at our great industrial towns, especially the poorer quarters of them, without feeling that there was a great and immediate problem which ought to be tackled thoroughly and courageously, no matter what the effort and the expense might be, as soon as possible by the whole of the population? Now a man did not live in a house. Man was a one-roomed animal. If you wanted criticism of a house you should go to that man's wife. If our towns could be built under the direction of the women who had to live in the houses we might have a most wholesome revolution. He hoped many of our women voters would turn their attention seriously to the problem of rehousing the people of the country. He hoped that in the time to come many women would enter the profession of architecture, a profession that had always seemed quite eminently fitted for them.

Dr. Guy Warman, Vicar of Bradford, the Rev. T. O. Ransford, President of the Free Church League, and Alderman Hayhurst made forcible and inspiring speeches. Miss Roberts, Headmistress of the Bradford Girls' Grammar School, speaking on behalf of the Bradford W.S.S., explained that the Society had arranged this meeting.

BRISTOL.—The first of the Monthly Meetings after the holidays was held at the Y.M.C.A., Totterdown, on September 4th, and arranged by Mrs. J. Martin, the district Hon. Sec. The Chair was taken by Mrs. W. Cross, who likened the vote to a key, and said that now we had it we must proceed to unlock the various doors. Miss Cooke, a N.U.W.S.S. Organiser, gave an address on the need for continuing the work of the National Union She touched on the various items of the new programme.

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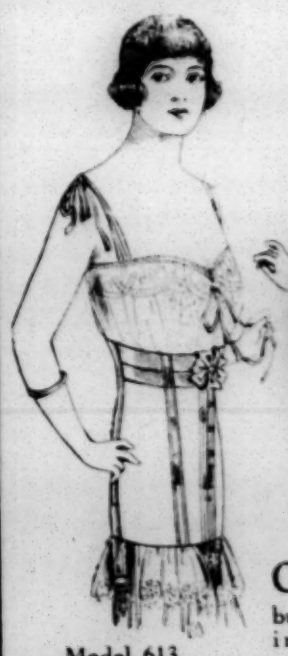
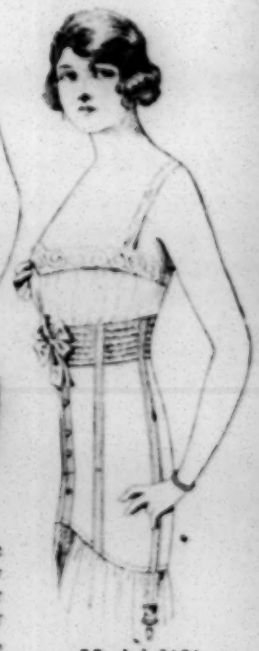
SHORT Corset in White Elastic; suitable for Gardening, Nursing, or any work which necessitates stooping... **21/9**

Model 15
FOR average figures, medium bust, splendid hip control, elastic gussets in skirt. Sizes 21 to 30 inches ... **25/9**
Also in Broche, 39/6



Model 613
DAINTY Model in White or Pink Tricot; elastic inset at waist, low bust, medium length over hips; front & side suspenders. Sizes 20 to 26 ins. **27/6**

Model 25
CORSET in White Broche; low bust, slightly higher in shoulder, for average figures, elastic gussets on hips. Sizes 21 to 30 ins. **21/9**



Model 3191
CORSET in firm pale Pink Tricot; low bust with elastic top, deep over hips, front and side suspenders. Sizes 21 to 30 ins. ... **31/6**

Peter Robinson Ld Oxford St W1

and pointed out the difference between the work of Women Citizens' Associations and the Suffrage Society. A brisk discussion on equal pay for equal work followed.

On September 13th a meeting was held at 46, Downs Park West, by the kind invitation of the Misses Tanner. Miss Tanner took the chair, and said that we owe it to those pioneers who have gone before to go on with our work, and we may still have to be the advance guard of the Women's Movement. Miss Cooke spoke of the excellence of its Headquarters Organisation and said it must be backed up by the country. Definite reforms should be taken up and worked for, and she spoke of the backwardness of the Civil Service in giving any executive job to women. A resolution of protest against Reg. 40 D D.O.R.A. was then ably moved by Miss Helen Sturge, seconded by Mrs. Cross and carried unanimously. This resolution was sent to the local M.P.'s, the Prime Minister and the War Office.

On October 1st, by the kind permission of Mrs. Talbot, a meeting was held at 5, Berkeley Square. The chair was taken by Mrs. Thomas King, and Miss Enock, of the Civic League, gave an exhaustive address on State Endowment of Motherhood. She considered that such legislation would tend to lower wages, but that some help should be given to widows. In the discussion that followed the feeling was decidedly against a general State Endowment.

A resolution calling upon the Government to introduce a Bill making women eligible for Parliament was moved from the Chair, seconded by Mrs. Talbot and carried nem. con.

The Committee is arranging a Public Meeting to consider the problem of the Unmarried Mother, and hopes to raise a little money by a Jumble Sale on October 28th

SOUTHPORT.—A Meeting was held at Chapel Street Congregational School, on Friday evening, 6th October. Miss Lundy presided, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan spoke on the "New Objects of the Union." The Rev. E. Fleetwood, A.T.S., President, and Mrs. Lesley Coop also spoke.

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National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Margaret Jones.
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary).

Hon. Treasurer:
Miss Rosamond Smith.

Secretaries:
Miss Agnew, Mrs. Hubback (Information and Parliamentary).

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Headquarter Notes.

It is a great pleasure to announce two most generous gifts to our funds, one of £100 from Miss Eleanor Rathbone, and one of £30 from Miss Deneke.

The West Lancs., West Cheshire and North Wales Federation have undertaken to pay the salary and expenses of the organiser who is working in the district, and it is greatly hoped that other Federations will follow this example. Where Federation machinery has lapsed, help towards the work being done in the district would be very gratefully received from the larger and wealthier Societies who in pre-war days helped the Federation.

The Oxted and Limpsfield Society send a welcome donation of £1, towards Headquarters funds, with a promise of the proceeds of a concert to be held in November. Mrs. Walker, the Society's Hon. Secretary, writes: "We are anxious to do all we can, and will try and get a nice little sum to hand you." Will other Societies follow suit?

In making preparations for the Birmingham Council, we have discovered that the office possesses no complete set of the Proceedings of Council meetings. The following are missing from the records, and if any members of Societies can supply the deficiency, Headquarters will be most grateful:

July, 1910:—Council held in Bristol;
January, 1911:—Council held in Kensington;
December, 1911:—Council held in Queen's Hall;
May, 1912:—Council held in Essex Hall;
October, 1912:—Council held in Manchester;
April, 1914:—Council held in Chelsea Town Hall.

Literature Department.

The Literature department regrets that it will be obliged to sell its most recent leaflet on Regulation 40 D. D.O.R.A., "Back to the C. D. Acts," which it published jointly with the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, at the slightly increased rate of 6d. per dozen. The wholesale rate will remain 3s. per 100.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Miss Dillon's transport column has been moved up nearer the line of advance. Her column and the cars from Ostrovo are fully occupied. Due warning has been given by the authorities, so that the ambulances were fully prepared for the transport of the wounded and the hospital was ready for their reception.

Dr. Macphail writes from Sallanches: "You should see the excitement of our people here over the recent news from the front in Macedonia and Palestine! They are very cheerful indeed, even the rain and cold mist we have been having do not depress them."

Since the evacuation of the two cantines at Creil and Crèpy it has been the intention of the Committee to take up work in another district wherever the French Red Cross considered the need most urgent. An opening has now offered at Favresse, where there is a very large camp far from any village. In addition to a spacious cantine there is a prospect of much work in the Foyer. The hut for the workers is conveniently near the camp.

The Equipment Committee appeal urgently for Triangular Bandages; flannel and domette and calico roller bandages; pneumonia jackets, coloured flannelette nightshirts, and all kinds of woollen comforts, especially caps, helmets, and mufflers. With the approach of winter it is most important that there shoud be an ample supply of warm clothing in all the hospitals.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, much new work being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Unit to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss Gosse, Joint Hon. Treasurers, S.W.H., 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to September 30th, 1918	337	8	7
Further donations received to October 10th, 1918:—			
Anonymous	5	0	0
*Sir R. Rowand Anderson (Monthly donation)	2	0	0
*Anonymous (Royaumont) ...	25	0	0
*Miss Eliz. Rae (Monthly donation)	2	6	

	£	s.	d.
*"Glasgow Evening News" Fund, per Sir John Samuel	20	0	0
*Mrs. Moncrieff Wright, per Miss J. Seaton	2	0	0
*Director and Employees, Messrs. Wm. Ritchie & Sons Ltd., per Geo. Jamieson, Esq. Sec.	10	0	0
*The Misses Macluckie (Annual subscriptions) ...	4	4	0
*Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon. Treas., Balance remaining from "Lavender Day" towards upkeep of "Ascot" Beds	3	0	8
*Alex. Cupples (Monthly donation)	2	0	0
*Staff, Bristo Public School, Edinburgh, per Miss C. P. Rankine	1	5	7
Miss B. Cochrane		10	0
Miss Fullerton (Serbia) ...		5	0
Rev. T. and Mrs. Siddie ...	1	0	0
*Miss Curtis, for upkeep of "Emma Curtis" Bed (Royaumont)	25	0	0
"Darling's Regent Hotel," Edinburgh	10	0	0
Miss Ferguson (Corsica) ...	3	0	0
Mrs. Hunter	2	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees and Staff, Saxone Shoe Co. Ltd. (£6 15s. 9d.), *Employees, Messrs. Dick, Kerr Co. Ltd. (29th contribution) (£5 13s. 2d.)	12	8	11
*"Kirk Session South Leith Parish Church," per Jas. M. Thorburn, Esq., Session Clerk, Leith: (Serbia £7, France £3)	10	0	0
*"In Memory of Lenore" (Royaumont)	25	0	0
*"Tayport Parish Church Women's Guild," per Mrs. Stuart, Hon. Treas., per Miss S. E. S. Mair	6	0	0
*Mrs. A. A. Rose	10	0	0
Per Miss Geraldine Cooke: *North Berwick Flag Day, per Mrs. Reid (£40 14s.), *Nairn Flag Day, per Miss M. C. Lawson (£30 2s.), Tranent Flag Day, per W. Fraser, Esq., Town Clerk, Tranent (£7 14s. 10d.), Sister Walker's Meeting, per Miss G. C. Willis (£7 13s.), Mrs. Brooks, per Sister Walker (£1), Post Cards (£1 11s. 8d.)	88	15	6
Forward as per list to September 28th, 1918	365,985	0	11
Donations received to September 30th:—			
*Per Miss A. M. Williamson, for "September" Bed (Royaumont), for six months: Mrs. Gilroy (£5 5s.), Mrs. Luedors (£5), Miss Marjory Smith (£5), Lady Mackie (£2 2s.), Mrs. Church (£2 2s.), Mrs. Underhill (£2 2s.), Mrs. Lyell (£2), Mrs. Currie (£2), Mr. Nelson Gill (£2), Lady Wilson (£1 1s.), Mrs. Belfrage (£1), Mrs. Thorn (£1), Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Macmillan (£1), Mrs. Dickson (£1), Mr. Wallace (£1), Miss Archbold (£1), Mr. Horton (£1), Mrs. Muir (£1), Mrs. Gillespie (£1), Mrs. Miller (£1), Miss Carmichael (£1), Miss Williamson (£1) Mrs. M. Henderson (10s. 6d.), Miss Grant (10s.), Rev. I. MacIntyre (10s.), Mrs. Whyte Smith (10s.), Mr. Bishop (10s.), Mrs. Macnicol (10s.), Mrs. Johnston (10s.), Sums under 10s. (£5 17s. 6d.) (£50), Already acknowledged (£25)	25	0	0
*Miss Mary C. Mackie		2	6
Proceeds of Flag Day in Perth and Scone on September 20th and 21st, 1918, per Miss Euphemia W. R. Alison ...	63	0	0
*Pupils of Grange School, Bo'ness, per W. S. Andrew, Esq.	5	5	4
Miss Mary Milligan, per Miss M. J. Henderson	2	2	0
*Auckland Centre New Zealand Branch, British Red Cross Society, further donation per T. MacKenzie, Esq., New Zealand Government Offices, Strand, London	1,000	0	0
*Anonymous		10	0
*The Domestic Staff, St. Mary's School, Melrose		10	0
*Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Committee, per Miss M. C. Morrison, Hon. Treas. (September donations): *Garden Fete held at Hafton House, by the Mid and Upper Cowal Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, per Mrs. Graham (£800), *Creaganfois Garden Fete, Dalry, Kirkcudbright, per Mrs. Morton, for the upkeep of the "Dalry" bed (£104 14s.), *Barrow Sales of Fruit, Flowers, Vegetables, and Picture House Collections during July and August in Rutherglen and Burnside organised by Mrs. Warden and Dr. Miller (Mrs.), per Miss Miller (£80), *Hamilton Flag Day, per Miss Ross (£76), R. D. MacGregor, Esq., per Miss Dunlop, Biggar, for the upkeep of "Wiston and Roberton" Bed (£50), *Bellshill and Mossend Flag Day, per Mrs. Findley and Mrs. Alexander (£33 13s. 9d.), *Wishaw Flag Day, per Miss Jean Rankin, per Geo. Scottsloan, Esq. (£30 17s. 6d.), Flower Sales at Busby Station, per Miss Walker and Miss Murray (£25 14s.), *Mrs. Landor, towards upkeep of "Eaton Landor" Bed (£25), *Sale of Buttonholes and Fruit at Rouken Glen per Miss Davidson (£23), *Bothwell Flag Day, per Mrs. R. Brown (£12 14s.), *Further Proceeds from Sale of Flowers at Clarkston Station, per Mrs. Cochran (£10 19s. 3d.), *"In Memory of Walter, Matthew and Struthers Findley" (£10), *Tinwald Parish Flag Day, per Mrs. Hyslop Maxwell (£6 18s.), "W. C. S." (£3 3s.), *Mrs. John Blackburn (£3), *Ayr W.S.S., per Mrs. Alexander (£2 10s. 6d.), Mr. Begg (£1 1s.), R. G. McLennan, Esq. (10s.), *Miss J. Greig (5s.), Workmen's Scheme: *Employees of Messrs. Yarrow & Co. Ltd., towards the upkeep of the "Shiela" Bed, gifted by the Employees of Messrs. Yarrow & Co. Ltd., Scotstoun (£12 10s.), *Employees of Messrs. Ross & Duncan (£12), *Employees of Messrs. Wm. Simons & Co. Ltd. (£9 12s.), Messrs. H. Hogarth & Sons (£5), *Employees of Messrs. Hay, Nisbet & Co. Ltd. (£3)	1,348	15	0
*Employees, Wm. Martin, Sons & Co. (£2 2s.), *Employees, Messrs. Cassel Cyanide Co. Ltd. (£2), *Employees, Messrs. Alexander Jack & Co. Ltd., Motherwell, August and September (£1 12s.), Messrs. James Meighan & Son (£1 1s.)			
*Per Miss E. Rachel Jamieson, Organiser, S.W.H.: Mr. Baird (£1 1s.), "Juniors in 22," per Mr. Shepherd (2s. 9d.), Robert Melville, Esq. (10s.), Workmen's Scheme: Employees, Lothian Chemical Co., Bougston Road, Edinburgh, per C. Norman Kemp, Esq. (£5), Employees, Messrs. Thomson & Porteous, Leith Street, Edinburgh (£3 6s. 6d.), Firm and Employees, Messrs. Buchan, Portobella Potteries, Portobella, per A. W. Buchan, Esq. (£3 0s. 6d.), *Employees, Messrs. Munro, Restalrig, Edinburgh, per Miss Cargill (£2 15s.), *No. 4 Hoist Squad Coaltrimmers, Leith, per J. Munro, Esq. (14s. 6d.), National Union of Railwaymen, Hardengreen Branch, per Jas. Stobbie, Esq. (10s.)	17	0	3
Per Lady Berry, further per Miss Cowe, for upkeep of "St. Abbs" Bed (Royaumont)	25	0	0
Mrs. Neryon	1	0	0
Part Proceeds of Red Cross Fete held at Logierait, Perthshire, per the Duchess of Atholl	29	0	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser, S.W.H., Greenock: Greenock Serbian Penny-a-week Collection for "Greenock Ambulance" (August collection) (Total collected to date, £870 6s. 8d.) (208,806 Pennies) (£16 4s. 11d.), *Workmen, Messrs. Wm. Hamilton & Co., Port Glasgow (54th-67th contribution) for upkeep of "Glen Shipbuilding Yard" Bed (sallanches) (£4 0s. 9d.), Greenock East End Co-Op. Society, Collecting Boxes for Greenock Ambulance Fund (18s. 1d.)	21	5	9
Per Miss Mary E. Dalby, Hon. Treas., Birkenhead and District W.S.S., towards "Birkenhead" Bed, Royaumont: Miss Hibbert (10s.), Mrs. F. Robinson (2s. 6d.), Members' Subscriptions (£3 4s. 8d.)	3	17	2
Total to September 30th, 1918	£368,514	9	9
Less: Proportion of earmarked subscriptions per Miss Kathleen Burke, remitted to date, to London Committee (£30,292 3s. 2d.), Donations remitted to the "Elsie Inglis Memorial" Committee (£359 7s. 6d.), Remitted to Federation (9s. 6d.) ...	30,652	8	2
Net Total to September 30th	£337,862	9	7

* Denotes further donations.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Names of Beds.	*Donor.*
"September" Bed (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Collected per Miss A. M. Williamson.
"Dalry" Bed (Salonique, further) ...	Per Mrs. Morton, per Miss Morrison.
"Wiston and Roberton" Bed (Royaumont, further 1 year)	R. D. MacGregor, Esq., per Miss Morrison.
"Eaton Lander" Bed (Salonique, further 6 months)	Mrs. Lander, per Miss Morrison.
"Shiela" Bed (Royaumont, further 3 months)	Employees, Messrs. Yarrow & Co. Ltd., Scotstoun, per Miss Morrison.
"St. Abbs" Bed (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Per Lady Berry, per Miss Cowe.
"Emma Curtis" (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Miss Curtis, Glenside, Greenock.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS. LONDON UNITS.

Who gives quickly, gives twice. Funds are needed for the upkeep of the Elsie Inglis Field Hospital, which has been advancing with the victorious Serbs in Macedonia. More ambulances are a necessity if the Unit is to keep up its reputation of never failing to meet the demands made on its courage and resource. A second gift of £500 has been received in the hour of Serbia's triumph from Mr. Francis Samuelson, who gave £500 to the London Units at the time of the Dobrudja retreat in 1916, and a very generous response to the recent appeal has been made by various rubber companies. The Cambridge County School for Girls has endowed a bed for a year. Unless a great many other people show themselves equally interested in the Elsie Inglis Unit its usefulness at a critical moment will be hampered.

The Treasurers of the London Units (66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.) are the Viscountess Cowdray and Miss T. Gosse.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

OCTOBER 21.

Birmingham—University—Prospective Legislation—Mrs. Ring 5.30 p.m.

OCTOBER 22.

Leicester—Temperance Hall—Housing Conference—Mrs. Ring—Chair: Alderman Waverley 7.30 p.m.

Sheffield—Nether Lecture Hall—Speaker: Dr. Helen Wilson—Subject: "The Equal Moral Standard, with special reference to D.O.R.A. 40 D" 7.30 p.m.

OCTOBER 25.

Poplar—Presbyterian Settlement, 56, East India Dock Road—Subject: "Women and International Law" 3.10 p.m.

Willesden—Willesden Women Citizens' Association, St. Gabriel's Hall, Cricklewood—Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, B.A.—Subject: "Reconstruction"

OCTOBER 28.

E. Islington—St. Thomas' Church, Finsbury Park—Mothers' Union—Speaker: Mrs. Bertram—Subject: "The Duties of Citizenship and Women's Service Guild" 3 p.m.

Sheffield—Nether Schoolroom—Jumble Sale 2-5 p.m.

OCTOBER 29.

Barnsley—Arcade Hall—Mrs. Fisher will speak on "The New Responsibilities of Women"—Chair: Evan Davies, Esq., B.A. 7.30 p.m.

Avery Hill—Miss Curwen will lecture at the Avery Hill Training College, whose past and present students support two "beds" in the Elsie Inglis Unit 3.30 p.m.

Coming Event.

NOVEMBER 6

Queen's Hall—A Public Meeting of Protest against Regulation 40 D D.O.R.A.—Chairman: Mrs. Fawcett—Speakers: Mrs. Bramwell Booth, Monsignor Provost Brown, Miss A. Maude Royden, Mr. E. B. Turner, F.R.C.S., The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Kensington. Numbered and reserved seats 2s. 6d. and 1s. Free tickets to be obtained on application to the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 19, Tothill Street, S.W. 1.

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30	2	3	6	3	12	0
40	3	0	8	6	16	0

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, London Branches Council Discussion Meeting, Saturday, October 26th, at 3 p.m., in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Subject: "A League of Nations," to be opened by Miss Lind af Hageby; Chair: Mrs. Tanner. Admission free. Reserved seats 1s. from Secretary, W. F. L., 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

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Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY LTD., Whitefriars House, Carmelite St., London, E.C. 4, for the Proprietors, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., and Published at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. *London:* George Vickers. *Manchester:* John Heywood; Abel Heywood & Son; W. H. Smith & Son. *Newcastle-on-Tyne:* W. H. Smith & Son *Edinburgh and Glasgow:* J. Menzies & Co *Dublin and Belfast:* Eason & Son.